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LOOKING BACK

Date: July 16, 1996

BLOOMINGTON LAND OFFICE AT HAROLD WARP'S PIONEER VI

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Panel 1 -- History of the BLM

Nolan Keil, Bob McCarthy, Monte Rohwer, Ed Rowland

Panel 2 -- Progress of Management on the Public Lands

Ed Spang, Fred Boyd, Neil Forsyth, Stu Gearhart, A. John Hillsamer, Jim Yoakum

Panel 3 -- Reminiscence

Virginia McCold, Ed Tilzey, Jody Woodin
Joined by members from two previous panels

Narrator: **Roger McCormack**
Welcome and closure: **Ann Morgan**

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INTRODUCTION

The 50th anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management not only provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the creation of our agency, but also allows us to celebrate the accomplishments of the men and women who served before us. These people shaped the agency, giving substance and meaning to the land management policies we use today.

We are fortunate to have some of these past employees here with us today to share their BLM experiences. Others who could not attend have sent in letters of remembrances that are enclosed within this booklet. Many of the speakers on todays panels and those who submitted letters began their BLM careers during the agency's infancy, and their personal stories are not only interesting, humorous, and insightful, but go a long way in helping us understand todays BLM. We thank them for relating their memories of what made BLM a leader in natural resource management.

The mission of the agency has broadened considerably since 1946. Our work force has changed as Congress recognized the many values of public lands and adopted the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Today, you'll find BLM employees who are specialists in recreation, cultural resources, wildlife, planning and environmental coordination, wild horse and burro management, and minerals management supported by experts in computer science, personnel, and administration.

But with all the changes, one thing has remained constant since the times of men like Nolan Keil, Bob McCarthy, Monte Rohwer, and Ed Rowland—fulfilling our mandated responsibilities can be difficult. The competition for the public lands among user and interest groups with conflicting needs and philosophical positions is as intense as ever.

Who knows what the future holds for the BLM? One thing that is certain, the road will be easier to travel knowing that the thoughtful men and women here today cleared the way.

Acknowledgments

A 50th anniversary reunion requires much preparation. To the many people who volunteered their time and energy to todays celebration, we thank you.

Special thanks to Stu Gearhart who arranged for panel speakers and topics. And of course, much appreciation to all of the panelists and retirees who shared their BLM memories.

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals:

PANELISTS

History of the BLM
Nolan Kell, Bob McCarthy, Monte Rohwer, Ed Rowland

Progress of Management on the Public Lands
Ed Spang, Fred Boyd, Neil Forsyth, Stu Gearhart, A. John Hillsamer, Jim Yoakum

Reminiscence
Virginia McCold, Ed Tilzey, Jody Woodin

MODERATOR
Roger McCormack

WELCOME, CLOSURE
Ann Morgan

50th COMMITTEE, NSO
Stu Gearhart, BLM retiree and volunteer, who arranged for panel speakers
Maxine Shane, External Affairs, oversight of July 16 events
Terry Neumann, External Affairs, editor of 50th anniversary booklet
Lynn Weimer, External Affairs, work processing, refreshments, awards
JoLynn Worley, External Affairs, videotaping, sound system, picnic flyers
Cal Robinson, Printing Specialist, 50th booklet and flyers

RESEARCHERS
Carol Hadley
Patsy McDuffie
Joanne Woodruff, keeper of the research files

ABLE ASSISTANCE
Neal Brecheisen, greeter
Betty Green, decorations
Sandy Gregory, nametags
Everell "Butch" Hayes, sign-in
Larry Kirk, sound system
Janet Nordin, distribution of 50th memorabilia
Natalie Okimura, greeter
Cameron Shane, posters
Joan Sweetland, jack of all trades for July 16
Lili Thomas, Nevada 50th anniversary representative

PICNIC
Reno BLM Employees Association

REMEMBRANCES

Ramblings from the desk of Jack Seley - A Tired Old Retiree

RANGE SURVEY

Range Survey, just the mention of it brings a flood of nostalgic memories. As I remember it, I have been actively involved in the field work for 10 separate Range Survey efforts, and have participated in adjudication of grazing privileges based upon at least two others. None of these Range Surveys were in the State of Nevada. I think this is typical of the BLM experience. Many present and former Nevada BLM'ers have worked in a number of different states (five in my case).

However, a common thread does run through most of these Range Survey experiences, so that my adventures in Oregon and California will sound familiar to anyone who worked anywhere in BLM on a Range Survey. Our new agency, created during the reorganization of 1946, needed vast amounts of information to carry out the adjudication of grazing privileges. Range Survey was a way to get that information, and as such, it was primarily an inventory and assessment of vegetation and vegetative associations, with the purpose of determining the grazing capacity, or just how much use by cattle or sheep could be allowed. There was a lot more to it than that because other types of information also needed to be documented. As a result, crews using aerial photography, mapped roads, fences, water locations, structures of all kinds and topographic features (to name a few) as well as vegetative communities and associations.

The individual crew members were a mixed bag of college students studying wildlife or range with a few exceptions that stand out in my mind. I have worked with forestry and soils students and once with a fellow studying psychology who happened to have enough botany classes to qualify. Most often the Crew Chiefs were full time BLM employees who had graduated with a degree in range.

I started my range survey experiences in the Oregon high desert during the summer of 1957, having been recruited by a BLM team during my winter quarter at college. I really didn't have a good idea of what to expect, but it sounded a lot better than working swing shift at the local food processing plant for another summer, so off I went. We were shown how to use aerial photos to locate ourselves and for mapping purposes, how to read a staff compass etc, and most importantly, how to estimate the gram weight of vegetation within a 9.6 square foot plot by individual species. After training on plant identification, we were ready to go!

What a sight we were Each of us carried an aluminum clipboard stuffed with photos, transect sheets and instructions (just in case we were memory impaired); a staff manufactured in the BLM yard from a hoe handle, which had a sharp spike on one end while the other end was shaped to accept the bracket on a large compass, a webbed belt with a pair of grass shears in a scabbard and at least one one-quart army canteen; a ridged metal hoop to measure our 9 6 square foot plot and, of course the compass. All this and a wide brimmed hat Other equipment or portable stuff was optional. Some of the crew wore vests that options such as lunch could be stuffed into. I did not since I did not own one at the start of the season and choose to save as much as possable for college I just wrapped the top of my lunch sack around my webbed belt which was already burdened with sheers, compass and two canteens. You can imagine how odd that must have looked. However, we made good use of all our equipment, some uses anticipated and some not. For example, the staff did double duty as a snake killer, and the clipboard could be used to reflect sunlight into the eyes of another crew member to attract attention in times of need or to annoy if one was bored. Most of the vehicles carried a varity of other equipment, one such item being a Polaski which was used on at least one occasion to chop apart a large rock that the jeep was high centered upon (there was no handyman jack for whatever reason)

Each crew member walked a transect, following a line marked on the photos, keeping oriented with the compass or upon occasion walked a compass line, keeping oriented with the photos The usual practice was to transverse a line between two roads or trails, being dropped off soon after first light and being picked up in the early afternoon, when the transect was completed The transects were 8 to 12 miles long depending upon availability of pickup and dropoff points. Every one-tenth of a mile the hoop was thrown at randem to select a plot location. Once the plot was selected, the vegetation was sampled. Our Crew Chief was stopped more than once that summer by strangers visiting the country who wanted to report strange behavior to the government official. Their report was always about some demented person walking through the brush who would suddenly throw one hand into the air and start running After running a short distance, that individual would squat down in the brush and dissapear for 5 to 10 minutes. Then the person would stand up and begin to walk again, soon to return to the odd behavior. Over and over.

What a wonderful introduction to BLM that first summer was. Our camp was a trailer house with bunk beds which we moved whenever and wherever needed. The area we were surveying was about 90 some miles north of the District Office and had, at one time, been partially and unsuccessfully homesteaded. After the homesteaders had been relocated under the Bankhead-Jones Act, the land returned to native vegetation, in a

manner of speaking. Patches of Rabbit Brush or Sagebrush with very even edges marked old fields Roads that were abandoned were detectable only by a dip in the height of the brush. Another unique feature of that part of the country was that many section corners were not to be found, at least not where they were supposted to be. Many, if not most, wound up as foundation material for homesteader houses or were used for some other work-a-day purpose. Up in the hills a short distance away, the corners were where they were supposed to be. Finding and locating section corners on the photos was very important so that accurate maps, from which accurate acreages could be computed, could be made of the country covered by the crews.

As I said, my first summer was a wonderful experience. When I returned to college that fall, I changed my major from General Agriculture to Range Management, specifically so that I could target BLM for my career.

It wasn't all fun and games. Sometimes Range Survey could become hazardous as in the case of the Hampton Butte survey in Eastern Oregon. A team had been assembled at Hampton Butte in the Prineville District composed of permanent personel from the six Oregon Grazing Districts. Some had previous experience as Chief of Party for Range Survey and some did not. The purpose of this gathering was two-fold. The first purpose was training and orientation of all the Chiefs of Party from the various districts to provide a common knowledge and experience base; the second purpose was to get a quick "down and dirty" range survey of a relatively small grazing unit using an experienced crew. Garren Long, for many years Nevada State Office Range Program Leader, was the Crew Chief and principle instructer. Other later to be notable within BLM crew members included Marlen Jones, Ray Brubaker (once Chief of Operations in Ely and much later State Director of Wyoming), Norm Murray (former Carson City and Nevada State Office notable) and myself, who in the course of events later became Chief of P&EC in the Nevada State Office.

The hazardous part come quickly, far too quickly to react in any consious way. I was driving an old Willy's panel, you know the kind - dark green, full of rattles, collected dust with a passion. I had previously picked up three other crew members and we were on the way back to camp, using a good county road, traveling at a good clip. All of a sudden, the steering wheel was jerked from my hands and the Jeep left the road at right angles and bucked its way through the barrow pit and up a road cut to the left, at approximately 40 miles an hour. The combination of the steep incline and my (terriorized) self standing on the brakes soon stopped the vehicle, but not before we topped out of the road cut onto a small hill 10 to 20 yards off the road. One of the left front spring brackets had broken, momentarily dropping the weight of the vehicle onto the steering arm. No one was hurt, but how close we came, for just about 100 yards

further along the road the cut changed into a steep dropoff. How differently things could have turned out! My recollection is that Ray Brubaker was in that broken down old Jeep with me that day.

PLANNING AND PRE-PLANNING

BLM struggled for a long time to create and maintain an image as professional land managers. So long as BLM's major management charter was the Taylor Grazing Act, the Forest Service could justify their attitude that BLM was not a "professional" land management agency. No matter that BLM employees had attended the same classes and graduated from the same colleges, the work performed was only "until the ultimate disposition" of the public lands and therefore, somehow sub-professional. To cap that off, the BLM lands were leftovers. Half a billion acres that no one wanted or that were valueless. BET ME!!!

One of BLMs efforts to create and maintain this professionalism was through the use of land use plans. The roots of land use planning are deep within BLM and started long before the passage of the Classification And Multiple Use Act. One example is the Master Unit Plans used by the early 1960s Realty Specialists. My impression (I was totally immersed in the Section 15 grazing program at the time and only beginning to develop interests in wider issues) is that these were not well coordinated with other programs and were oriented towards establishing values for sale and determining "highest and best use", but they did contain a listing of known resources and took into account local planning, if any. Early Allotment Management Plans, although oriented towards domestic livestock grazing, did take into account other uses such as wildlife grazing and watershed protection. Other examples include Timber Management Plans, Transportation Plans, Resource Conservation Plans, and many more I've forgotten, or perhaps never knew of.

These early plans all contributed to the land reports done under the Classification And Multiple Use Act. The massive effort that went into inventorying and classifying lands under this act was the basis for all the future land use plans that followed, be they URA-MFP or RMP-EIS

Do I sound like I was there at the beginning? I was, or nearly so. I remember when no one in his or her right mind wanted anything to do with land use planning and District Managers assigned the job to the biggest geek in the office on a part time basis. I remember the "Brown Book" and the "Yellow Book" that preceeded it. I was one of those who resisted planning and made fun of the geek in the corner with the sleeve garters and green eye shade, and then, because I wanted a transfer and because I finally began to see the light, I was one of 'them there Planners'

The early efforts of BLM to develop a standard planning system were heavily influenced by the Univerisity of Wisconsin. The bureau, thanks to the forsight and effort of Bob Jones, developed a cooperative agreement with the U of W and sent many, many employees to long term training at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Madison Wisconsin (URPLE), mostly at a rate of two per academic year This program involved taking graduate level classes in Land Use Planning and could be tailored to individual needs Nevada received, over a number of years her share of Wisconsin graduates: Ken Reinhart, Gorden Knight, Bob Bales and Jack Seley

Each of us who attended Wisconsin had a unique experience. The idea was to train us to fill key State Office or District Office Land Use Planner positions and to develop a dispersed cadre of professional Land Use Planners with resource backgrounds in each state and in the Washington Office. Under the long term training agreement, employees were sent to training with URPLE at Madison, Wisconsin, for up to a full year, but never actually transfered to that location. Some traveled with spouse and family, some did not.

My own trip to Wisconsin was an adventure all by itself. We choose to sell our house, put most of our things in storage, load up the whole family and hope for the best. Our rental truck loaded with a few basics lost reverse gear in Evanston, Wyoming. So, there I was, a flatlander used to an elevation of 450 feet, moving our stuff from one truck to another at 7000 feet in a place I knew nothing about while the kids played in the parking lot.

If I had had any idea that this was an indication of how the rest of the trip would go, I would have turned back, found a hole and crawled in. Traveling caravan style with two kids, 4 cats, one rental truck and our car was no picnic anyway, but trying to follow the car through traffic while my wife, Win, was looking for a restroom in downtown Omaha for one of the kids almost blew the whole deal. My young son who was in the truck with me learned a whole new vocabulary that day

Choosing coursework that would lead to a Masters Degree and also be applicable to BLM

was another challenge. Regional planning, as viewed by URPLE, was oriented more toward capital improvement such as transportation than it was toward wildland management. Eventually it all worked out and it became my mission to take the major planning principles and seminar discussions and relate them to BLM problems and responsibilities. At times this took a lot of faith and imagination, as in the case of trying to relate the Corp of Engineer s strategy and methods while raising the level of the locks on the Mississippi River to BLM management in the Great Basin. Other relationships such as historic preservation were more apparent to me.

The biggest adjustment was finding that there was no definitive plan or specific job waiting at the end of the program. There we were, with our shining new qualifications, all on our own looking for a home. Well, that too worked out and after two years in Wyoming as an environmental leader, I wound up in the Nevada State Office, and here I stayed to retirement.

BLM'S TRANSITION FROM HOLLERING IN NEVADA TO THE USE OF 2-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

"How do you copy?"
"Loud and clear."
"Ten-four."

Loud and clear was not always the case approaching 40 years ago; in fact, it could be considered the exception a good deal of the time. And would you believe Minden experienced difficulties talking to some of the fire suppression people on the Autumn Hills fire just last week! Well, that's what keeps communications people ticking; meeting head-on the challenge of providing reliable links between point A and point B.

A handful of World War II surplus military radio equipment was used in the early 50's by BLM in Nevada in an effort to communicate with fire camps, with minimal success, according to old time BLM'ers no longer with us.

Then came the late 50's when the Olson brothers, technicians Roy and Ray, came aboard, operating out of the old Salt Lake City Office. Roy was a pilot and owned his own plane. Former Nevada SD, Russ Penney, can relate tales of flying with them. These two men, somehow, managed to install a number of radio stations on mountain-tops in Nevada, as well as some other western states, then modified and interfaced additional units to provide links to the district offices. They also installed a smattering of mobile units, but farmed-out others. The year 1960 came along and they sought greener pastures, saying farewell to BLM. And with their departure, Nevada's fledgling radio 'system' sort of withered on the vine.

Enter a new era. A Division of Engineering was established in each State Office in 1961. James Young came out of the BLM Washington, D.C. office to head up Nevada's and for his secretary a young, good-looking, red-headed gal named Carol Hadley, but affectionately referred to as "Miss Blue" by many of her co-workers, filled that spot. As chief of the new engineering division, Jim was responsible for resurrecting and upgrading what there was of a communications system in Nevada, and he needed a warm body to fill that slot. He had an idea how to do it.

Years earlier, in 1951 and 1952, Jim and another young man named Jim Saladin, had worked together in the Bureau Of Reclamation on the construction of a 230,000 volt transmission line and switchyards from Shasta Dam near Redding, California, to the terminus at Tracy, Calif. in what was known as The Central Valley Project; Young as a Civil Engineer, and Saladin in the electrical branch. In the late summer of 1951, Saladin, being FCC licensed, was chosen to head up the construction and installation of a VHF radio-communications network for the CVP. He later settled down at the Tracy Pumping Plant on the Delta-Mendota

Canal to maintain a segment of the system....AND OTHER RELATED DUTIES AS ASSIGNED! In the late 50's, one of those 'other related duties' saw him doing a special detail in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The two Jims, Saladin and Young, did the lunch thing numerous times there in the Puzzle Palace on the Potomac.

About the middle of July, 1961, Jim Young contacted Jim Saladin at Tracy and asked him to think about becoming a part of the BLM team in the great state of Nevada. Great State of Nevada? He had to be kidding! Now Jim had been THROUGH Nevada.... clear up the Humboldt River drainage and beyond, and the best part he liked about it was leaving it behind! It has been said that a wise man changes his mind; a fool never does. The challenge of taking on the responsibility of providing radio coverage over a whole state, where access roads and available electrical power, for large portions of the state, did not exist, certainly made for some soul searching. But the challenge, and a promotion.... something worth thinking about. Then a personal phone call from State Director Russ Penney to this Saladin feller saying Reno's weather was outstanding and it never snowed before Christmas did it. Wait a minute. Never snowed before Christmas? Penney had to have been enjoying too many Picon Punches!

Well, the bridge at Tracy was burned and Jim Saladin came over Donner Summit in a light drizzle on Sunday night, November 19, 1961, and checked into a new motel, the Tahoe, on East 4th St. and promptly went to bed. Like to guess what greeted him the next morning? TEN inches of fluffy, white misery!!

He reported to Jim Young for duty that morning in an old brick building on Ryland Street that was formerly a garage, of all things. After being introduced to all of the State Office staff people (a relatively small group of outstanding individuals), this new green-hand was invited to join a bunch of regulars at The Clock Cafe across Virginia Street for coffee.... Russ Penney, Max Bridges, Odell Child, Dan Baker, and Jim Young. However, Young didn't drink coffee. It was there that the green-hand got introduced to a game called the 'Nevada Numbers Game' which determined who bought the coffee. He 'won' and paid the tab! That was the beginning of an 18-year enjoyable stint that was to be both rewarding and frustrating.

Mountain-top base stations serving the districts were: Elko DO - Elko Mountain; Winnemucca DO - Winnemucca Mountain; Carson City DO - Mount Davidson; Ely DO - Rib Hill; Las Vegas DO - Angel Peak; Battle Mountain DO - Mount Moses. The Reno SO had no radio communications. Spruce Mountain repeater station served Elko District; Winnemucca District had none; Carson City District had Corey Peak; Ely and Las Vegas Districts both used Highland Peak; and Battle Mountain District had none.

On November 20, 1961, the only base stations operational were Elko, Las Vegas, and Ely. As for repeater stations, only one, Highland Peak, was functional. Local commercial 2-way repair facilities were called upon from time to time to restore service. A handful of Motorola mobile radios had been installed in 5 of the 6 districts; Battle Mountain had about 10 still in boxes stored in the DO basement (with some water damage from seepage), and each district had two or three large, bulky "portables" (state-of-the-art at that time, however).

Early in January of 1962, Jim checked out a vehicle from the motor pool and commenced a get-acquainted and inventory trip around the state. Somewhere between Tonopah and Caliente, tooling along at about 70 MPH on a new State Highway designated SR-25 with temperatures hovering around Zero, a herd of cattle was observed crossing the highway far in the distance. Approaching the crossing area, cow dung was visible all over the road's surface. With an appropriate reduction in speed, and the thought of smelly cow crap all over the car because avoidance was an absolute impossibility, what would be would be! Reality was soon bouncing that vehicle all over the road, fortunately without mishap, because that cow poo poo had been deposited hours earlier and was frozen as hard as rocks! Just another little hazard to become familiar with in the Great State of Nevada!

In the months and years to come, many changes were made in the upgrading process of the communications system. Carson City's base station was moved from Mount Davidson to McClellan Peak with portable generators being used to power it part of that fire season while commercial power was run to the site; Ely's base station was relocated to Ward Mountain; Angel Peak gave way to Potosi Mountain to improve Las Vegas' coverage; and Battle Mountain's base was moved from Mount Moses to Mt. Lewis. As Resource Area Offices were established, radio communications became mandated in them. New additional mountain-top repeaters were installed in the 60's and 70's that included Jack's Peak, Bare Mountain, Bald Mountain, Mohawk Peak, Fox Mountain, and others. All of these new sites were without commercial power, and some without access roads, so new means and technologies had to be employed. Propane-fired thermoelectric generators came into being and were used to power base and repeater stations that were designed and fabricated in the State Office radio shop from solid state mobile unit strips; battery operated commercial units had not yet made their appearance in the marketplace. Refueling the thermoelectric generators was normally a once-a-year undertaking. Commercial propane trucks could access some of the sites (with a caterpillar/dozer assist at times) and refill the 500-gallon tank. One site, Ward Mountain, required a filled tank to be strapped to the bulldozer blade and carried to the mountain top in that fashion, with the nearly empty tank brought down the same way. Necessity dictated methods then, and still does. Eventually solar cells became commercially available and replaced

the thermoelectric generators. Helicopters played a development role at some of the sites back then, and today are indispensable.

Wintertime access to most of the high sites was a real headache in the early days, and sometimes hazardous. A rather hairy situation developed in the mid 60's when four men, the late Jack Griswold, Jim Andrews, a young electronics technician named Edward Henry Schultz III (better known as "Pepper"), and Jim Saladin attempted to reach snowbound Corey Peak repeater station, which lies to the west of Hawthorne, to effect repairs and restore service. Some time earlier the NSO radio shop had acquired an old military surplus tracked vehicle called a Weasel. This machine had one purpose, and one purpose only: provide transportation of personnel and equipment to radio sites over snow-clogged roads, and that's what it was being used for that day. Griswold, acting in the capacity of NSO safety engineer at that time, and who had operated these machines in the sands of North Africa during WWII, was the designated 'pilot', with Jim Andrews, resource area manager for that part of Nevada, and Pepper riding in the rear seat of the cab, along with boxes of spare parts. The machine's engine took up the space normally thought of as the front passenger seat. This left one option for Jim Saladin: ride shotgun on top of the critter. All went well for a number of miles until one of the tracks failed to respond to Griswold's tug on the friction steering lever. Instantly, the Weasel was over the side and sliding down the snow-covered mountain. Saladin, not yet having mastered the art of free-flying chose to bail off and landed in snow up to his waist and watched the old machine gently slide sideways down the hill a few hundred feet before coming to rest and gently roll over on its side. Must have been pure chaos inside that vehicle, what with boxes and bodies being scrambled, because Pepper emerged, unscathed, but as white as the snow that surrounded him! Jack Griswold was the only casualty, with a nasty gash across the top of his head when he impacted one of the channel iron supports of the roof. Oh, there was plenty of the crimson streaking down his face all right, but after some first aid his situation seemed to be under control, and attention could be directed to the problem at hand; one steaming, smoking, Weasel lying on its side. A come-along, some cable, rope, and a nearby tree provided the means by which the machine was righted. But all was not well. There was no oil pressure because the engine lubricant had been lost. And the thought of a long walk back down the mountain through deep snow, without snowshoes, was not appealing. But a scheme was hatched.

A portable radio was broken out and the Carson City District Office was contacted with a request for an aerial drop of motor oil. After what seemed to be an eternity, the news came that a plane had been chartered, its passenger door removed, and a case of 24 quarts of oil was on its way. Soon the Cessna 182 appeared over the top of the mountain at a safe elevation and made several downwind passes towards the stranded pilgrims, each pass a little

lower, checking air currents, when the radio crackled, "This is it!" Gene Hays, the Carson City AO, was the bombardier and he let go with the precious cargo. But it missed the designated snow field and hit a rock outcropping instead. Instantly, an amber curtain rose skyward from 20 rupturing cans of motor oil, but 4 quarts had survived. Just what was needed. With the engine now running properly, the old Weasel took the four men to the top of the mountain where Saladin and Schultz spent the night and repaired the station (bunks, heat, and emergency rations had been part of the building's design for such occasions). Jim Andrews and Griswold tooled down off the mountain and into Hawthorne's general hospital where 21, repeat, 21 stitches were required to put Jack's scalp back in shape! Morning saw Andrews and Jack picking their way carefully back up the mountain, and soon all four were heading down hill in that beautiful old Weasel and home.

There's an up side to this episode: Besides Griswold's old punkin-head healing completely, SEAT BELTS were installed in that Weasel the following week!

Apparently Jim Saladin discovered that there truly was beauty in Nevada and it was a Great State after all, because he retired from BLM on January 12, 1979, and is still enjoying the view with his wife from their"RANCHO COSTA MUCHO" high above the occasional smog in northwest Washoe Valley.

July 1, 1996

MANAGEMENT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE

In my image, Ed Rowland. State Director. was the apex of the management of the human resource and compassion for the Bureau employees. Mr. Rowland epitomized the values. concerns and caring that the BLM had for its human resource in management of the public land resource. His first concern was with assuring the welfare of the employee and their families and loyalty to them. This created team building, a cohesive team and commitment of the employee to the BLM and management of the resources..

Mr. Rowland's style of management may be characterized and is fondly acclaimed under other admirable circumstances as the Harry Truman management style - The Buck Stops Here.

My initiation into BLM was as a Land Examiner(Realty Specialist). The Bureau. I believe. had just recently hired their first reviewing appraiser. Although I did not know Mr. Rowland. the reviewing appraiser was very complimentary and related his admiration for the strength of Mr. Rowland in protecting his employees in an investigation of appraisals and land transfers. A few years later while working for Mr. Rowland in Montana, I was detailed to Yuma, Arizona to prepare appraisals of agricultural, residential and commercial trespasses along the Colorado River from Bullhead City to the Mexico border. Three of the Land Examiners Appraisers from Arizona had also been detailed to the Lower Colorado River trespass appraisals. Throughout the detail. these employees espoused their admiration and accolades of the strength and support of Mr. Rowland during this very difficult period of investigation. Although these employees did not refer to Mr. Rowland's management style as the Harry Truman - the Buck Stops Here management style. their characterizations, descriptions. comments and admiration, would in my analysis be properly described as such.

A few years later, a beginning Range Conservationist in Montana bid on a public sale of a BLM parcel. A hue and cry went out to fire the new Range Conservationist. The man had a large family and Mr. Rowland approached the situation in a compassionate and humane manner, indicating that the BLM employee and his family would be severely impacted because of the employees lack of information and knowledge. Mr. Rowland indicated the Bureau's orientation, indoctrination and training program in Montana had most likely been deficient and had failed the employee. Mr. Rowland would, therefore, accept responsibility for this deficiency. The employee was compassionately informed and reprimanded and allowed to continue employment.

While working in the Washington Office. one of my children became ill with a condition that was associated with the humidity in the D.C. area. The Doctor recommended that the family be transferred to a dry climate to alleviate the condition. Mr. Rowland. in concert with BLM Associate Director George Turcott, compassionately accepted and welcomed my transfer to Nevada.

Another example of Mr. Rowland's compassion and the BLM's management philosophy toward their human resource occurred with an employee in the Winnemucca District. A Winnemucca employee's young daughter had been severely injured when hit by a car. Mr. Rowland had the

man detailed to the Nevada State Office, so the employee could nurture and attend to his daughter and still remain employed during a time of great need.

There were many examples throughout the Bureau of compassionate and humanitarian actions. My final observation relates to the extended family of the BLM. Art Zimmerman, a former and retired State Director, did not return from his work with Idaho Power Co. My understanding is that his wife called her extended family, the BLM, and reported his missing. The BLM responded immediately. The BLM always had more work than could be accomplished and had to set priorities. However, under this circumstance, the wildlife survey priority was re-established under a jointly required humanitarian and compassionate need. The aerial reconnaissance wildlife survey team located Art Zimmerman's vehicle and body during their joint wildlife/humanitarian aerial reconnaissance survey.

Throughout my career with BLM, I informed my family to call the BLM and/or any of its employees should an emergency situation arise. The BLM family always responded.

I am proud to have served with the BLM, an agency that gave equal priority to management of its human resource, along with its management of the public land resources.

Stuart Gearhart

A SLANTED VIEW OF THE BLM

BY BOB GOODMAN (1/75 - 3/85)

It was a major life decision, to change agencies after some 20 years with the Forest Service, and go to the Bureau of Land Management. And it was the best decision of my career.

Arriving in Reno after some seven months of phone calls to see if I was still "interested" I arrived in January, 1975. Joining the Office of Public Affairs was quite a switch from being a resource manager, but the background will prove to be a great benefit in dealing with our Districts and Nevada's resource managers...we had a common language.

Within a few days of arrival, I was over in Pioche to film a census of wild horses. My introduction to Nevada was stark. Pioche is a great place, I hear, but in January when we were grounded because it was too cold to start the helicopter, it can become very small in a hurry. When we did get to the field after the third day, I selected a great spot from which to film...I know it was "great" because the horses ran right over the top of me as I lay in some rocks. Yessir, I knew this was the place for me.

During my tenure here at the Nevada State Office, there were a few "firsts" that I can look back on with pride. One was the acquisition of the first video equipment in the Bureau so I could do pieces on the projects going on about the state and send feeds to the local television stations. This led to more equipment and more capabilities, producing entire "programs" on various topics. But in this business, State of the Art changes rapidly, so our equipment was soon referred to as those "oldies" from the early days.

Another leap forward taken under the watch of Ed Rowland was the financing of a six-projector slide show run by computer. This was to introduce our prescribed fire program throughout the state. The program proved so popular I was asked to show it around the country, from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, Washington. One of the criteria in putting the show together was that it be "portable." Well, we redefined the word, and travelled the country with six hugh boxes costing many large tips to Skycaps at every airport we visited. This format allowed us to show motion on the screen, jazzing the audience because they were aware the program was all still photos.

Perhaps my greatest sense of accomplishment during the ten years with NSO was ending up with my office at the old Post Office on the Truckee River. It started as a detail with the Planning Folks to help out with a backlog of EIS's. One of the cases handed me was for a "World's Fair" to be held in North Las Vegas. One phone call to the World Exposition

Commission in D.C. put the skids on that project. Seems like a few of the principals involved had some land next to the "site" that could be sold at a nice profit. Too bad no one but they wanted the Fair to be in Vegas.

But, when the detail ended after a few more cases, I remained at the PO, on the second floor, in the corner. What a great office, and what a warm building...I hated to leave it. In fact, I took my early out from that office.

I was also assigned (poor me) to take a couple of weeks to travel through the Stone Cabin Valley planning unit to photograph all of the resources and "things" that I could find there. In order to be able to sleep where I stopped, I took my own private van with bed, etc. and this helped blend into the landscape. While going through Little Fish Lake Valley, I stopped at a small ranch to inquire if I might take some pictures. A little, very old man said it was OK, but if I'm a photographer, "What the hell is this thing?" He showed me a spotting scope, covered in grime and dust, that he'd found but had no idea what is was. I cleaned it up, oiled the knobs, and showed him how to focus and zoom to change powers. He was impressed!

So, I thought it safe to tell him I was with the BLM. Wrong. He ranted and raved about how some SOB named Rowland denied his land claim and so he never got his own ranch. After 40 years he still knew the name of Ed Rowland, the Land Adjudicator from California. Some things die hard. But, on the other hand, I seemed to be OK to him.

The best and worst came in one name: James Watt. When Regean appointed him Sec. of Interior, his assault on the natural world was so great it prompted the fastest rise in members of environmental organizations ever known. The worst? I had to dub seven copies of his address to the department to send to our field offices - and listen to each one!

My fire experience with the FS put me in position to become a Class II Fire Boss, then Incident Commander when we embraced the ICS. Well, I mentally fought the ICS at first, but after one incident (fire) showed me I could order only necessary resources and not have to fill all the blanks, I was a believer. And, what the hell, may as well mention that after I left the BLM under early out, I was hired back as a "pick-up" firefighter Incident Commander for a few years. Finally, I worked myself out of a job by spending a few fires as a "coach" to an incoming Commander.

Summary: The best ten years of my career. I wish it were all 30 with the Bureau of Land Management.

June 26, 1996

Ms. Ann Morgan, State Director, Nevada
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Ms. Morgan,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the Nevada celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management. Unfortunately I will not be able to be there. However, I will take the opportunity to offer some of my memories, since I began and ended my career with the BLM in the State of Nevada.

In the winter of 1962, I was recruited by Jim Yoakum and Red Patton of Reno to work out of the Winnemucca District office. The job was to be Range Survey to gather and record the vegetation and wildlife data necessary to establish the livestock grazing capacity on the public lands. The Range Survey crew had trailers with stoves and small but useful refrigerators. However I was not to be so lucky.

An inventory was needed to locate, determine the status of and plan for either maintenance of or abandonment of water developments installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. I was assigned to that job under the supervision of Boyce Coffee and Duane Sonnenberg. For a short time, I had a partner named Wayne Swenson (Who later went to work for the Forest Service). However, for most of that summer and early fall, I Worked alone 10 days on and 4 days off.

Boyce made arrangements for me to stay in the bunkhouse and eat with the hay crew at two ranches, Buster Dufurrena's and Stan VanVlect's (Soldier Meadows Ranch), while I located and made reports on projects on their public land allotments. Outside of those two weeks, I threw out a bedroll at what ever water hole I was close to at about sundown. Fresh food of any kind was out of the question. Respect for the talent and resourcefulness of a Game Warden named Bill Pogue did a pretty good job of keeping sage grouse and chukars off the menu. Bill and I did have a visit about a Nevada Hunting license purchased a little early. He decided that there was enough doubt about my guilt to let it go without a citation. Probably the fact that I was feeding a family of 4 children on G.S. 4 wages weighed heavily in his decision. (I still contend that I was innocent anyway.)

That time in Winnemucca changed my plans for a future completely. From a career plan to be a Game Warden, I changed the focus of the remainder of my college course work to range management to angle for a job with the BLM. The primary reasons, the dedication, comraderie and work ethic that existed among those people in the Winnemucca District was irresistible to me. Buster Dufurrena extended the kind of courtesy and generosity that can only be found in rural America.

Among my favorites was Ed Depaoli who taught me to recognize the local plant species and their value to livestock and wildlife and how to use that knowledge in the range adjudication process. Ed had an easy going efficiency that enabled him to do a tremendous volume of quality work without ever appearing to get in a hurry. That was coupled with a dry sense of humor that didn't run out on him even when we were stuck to the axles in an alkali bog or had to shoe an impossibly unruly horse. I appreciated the Baker brothers and Earl Horton when I came back to Winnemucca after graduation in 1964 and spent some time doing range project work until I could get a permanent appointment. I left Winnemucca in February of 1965 for a permanent job in the Elko District, but the pleasant memories of that time and that place are never far from the surface.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Billy Templéton

BLM Memories

Edward F. Spang - 6/19/96

(Typed by BLM.)

One cannot put into words the "memories" that come with permanent assignments in five states, Washington, D. C., and Nigeria, Africa. Just look at the 1996 calendar titled "Rediscover Your Public Lands (BLM 50th Anniversary 1946-1996). Visualize the input required from each of us to ensure implementation. We have participated and witnessed a historical change. Being part of this era is most memorable.

- With my first permanent assignment in the mid 1950s came a Special Rule establishing a new five-year period to adjudicate grazing privileges (Malta District - Montana). The Montana State Cooperative Grazing Associations were instrumental in the passage of this ruling. This involved shades of the Taylor Grazing Act adjudication of the 1950s.

During this adjudication process I was reminded that I could not tell a spring from a creek, fence from a corral, grass from trees. Later in my career I was informed I could not tell a road from a trail or wild horses from feral horses. I remember well.

- The Vale Project in the 1960s was one of the more important opportunities for BLM to show what could be accomplished with available resources. It gave BLMers a chance to demonstrate their professionalism and expand multiple-use management.

It was during this time I really learned fire suppression in cheatgrass, however not before I had the experience of being run over by a cheatgrass fire. How can one forget!

- During 1965-67 we were on assignment in Nigeria, Africa. The project was to implement resource management associated with livestock operations in northern Nigeria. As team leader, the group (BLMers) advised and assisted in educational needs, health services (human/livestock), governing processes, rules, etc.. All of these were changes that occur when social and cultural ways are altered.

This period of time lead up to the Nigerian Civil War and at various times we prepared to move personnel if necessary. Personally being detained and seeing death and destruction was part of developing history at that time. The team received a Unit Award for its excellence in service.

- In the mid 1960s the Bureau assembled a group of field managers/supervisors in Washington, D.C. -- Most likely the greatest number of field managers to be assigned to Washington. With this exposure came a new era of field/WO teamwork and understanding. Again, look at the 50th Anniversary Calendar and visualize the activity in the 1960s and 1970s.

With such strong willed characters you can expect some "tough" conflict management moments to occur, but the professionalism of BLM always remained in the forefront. This was a key point in time for BLM and I was fortunate to be part of it. What a timeframe to remember!

- The wild horse and burro program was one of the more emotional/demanding programs I managed in Nevada (1980s). This primarily was due to the sensitivity of establishing and formulating policy and procedures for management and the varied interpretations of the Act, rules, etc., by those interested in the program, both locally and nationally. Conflict management was at its best from time to time. I must say the president of WHOA! played a most significant part in the progress made during this period. Everyone worked hard from their point of interest. (Editor's note: Helen Reilley and then Dawn Lappin were presidents of WHOA!)

- The Sagebrush Rebellion was well on its way when I arrived in Reno in 1979. I spent months visiting cities, communities, governmental entities, Congressional representatives, the Governor, State Legislators, individuals, businesses, etc. to attain a thorough understanding of

the intent leading to the Sagebrush Rebellion Ruling. The success story in managing the resources while the issue was in litigation, was the sincere interest of the people of Nevada. Feelings may not have changed at that time, but the importance of cooperation/coordination in the interest of effective resource management prevailed. One can hardly beat that as a memory - thanks!

- Nevada (1980s) was a busy State. Progress was the name of the game. To mention a few (not inclusive) - Santini/Burton Bill; significant exchanges; major land sales; advanced mining technology; NEPA implementation; wild horses and burros; Sagebrush Rebellion; appraisals (standards); WSAs and livestock management technology changes, and threatened and endangered management. Each has its own story both pro and con. Nevada continued to move out. I shall remember Nevada days always!

- Alaska (1990-94) provided an experience few have the opportunity to share. Land/cadastral program, involving State of Alaska and Native Corporations continue to be major program thrusts. Some key accomplishments were: (1) improved management of the TransAlaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and recipient of the Hammer Award; (2) completed state land selection for a total of 105,000,000+ acres of public land; (3) implemented the Departmental Fire Policy between Federal Agencies and State Government; (4) enhanced working opportunities with Native entities under the Self-Determination Act and; (5) implemented the Federal Subsistence Act.

Distances are far and places remote. I've had flight jitters several times. I recall an individual from Washington wanting an area visited. "Just take a trip out there in your car when it can be worked in your schedule." OK, but the area is 1,000+ miles distance, no access road, limited private plane services, and no place to stay overnight. This sort of

Alaska awareness was always a laughing matter, but it demonstrates Alaska is a "frontier" and not really understood. Yes - what fond memories!

- In 1994-95 I lead a Field Organization Review and a Fire and Aviation Management Review of the Colorado BLM. The organizational review was the most far-reaching I participated in during my career. The fire and aviation review was one of the more sensitive and moving reviews I had participated in to date. These are two major milestones that I left with BLM as I retired in 1995. I will and shall remember a great career!

1945: USDI Public Land Agencies

GLO (WDC); NVLO (Carson City, NV); CA LOs (Sacramento, Los Angeles); Grazing Service (WDC); NV had 5 Grazing Districts (No 1, Elko 4-8-1935); (No 2, Winnemucca, 10-18,1935); (No 3, Carson City, 11-3-1936); (No 4, Ely, 11-3-1936); (No. 5, Las Vegas, 11-3-1936; CA had 2 Grazing Districts (No 1, Susanville 4-8-1935); (No 2, Bishop 4-8-1935); Division of Investigation (WDC) (Field Office in SF for NV & CA); Public Survey Office (WDC); Field Survey Office for NV at Salt Lake City; CA was at Glendale; Oregon and California Land Administration at Portland Oregon with District Offices at Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford and Coos Bay, Oregon.

1946-1949:

BLM created (WO composed of 6 Branches: Adjudication, Land Planning and Classification, Range Management, Timber and Resource Management, Engineering and Construction, and Administration); NV LO moved from Carson City to Reno, NV August 12, 1949; Region II staff in SF was composed of Regional Director, Admistrative Officer, Regional Counsel, Range Management, Land Planning and Classification, Forestry, Minerals Staff, and Survey Staff for CA and NV; Public Survey Office at Glendale, CA.

1950-1953:

BLM WO and field had same organization as 1946-1949; Grazing District No 6, Battle Mountain was created on 2-15-1951. A portion of the Sacramento Land District was transferred to the Los Angeles Land District on July 16, 1951.

1954 to the present:

BLM WO and the field reorganized several times during this period. In 1958 the WO consisted of a Directors Office, Division of Staff Services, Division of Technical Services, Division of Operations, Eastern States Office, and Outer Continental Shelf Office; Hearing Examiners were established at Portland, Oregon; Sacramento, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Salt Lake City; Utah, Denver,Colorado and Billings,Montana. CA SO was under Area I at Portland, Oregon and NV was under Area II at Salt Lake City, Utah. Later Area Offices consolidated to one Service Center; Land Offices merged and became part of the State Office Lands and Minerals staff and later part of the Division of Administration; new record system required further changes in the former Land Office organization and activities.

On December 12, 1964 10,920 acres were added to NV Grazing District No. 5 and 144,725 acres NV Grazing District No. 6.

REMEMBRANCES

Region II, San Francisco, CA 1947-1948. (Note: We worked M through F and a half day on Saturday when in the office and as we got $6.00 per diem when in the field we worked 7 days.)

Mr. Favorite (not Joseph or Joe); 50 year USDI Medal (1948); Brown Valley-Dobbins, Yuba Co. CA, Timber trespass on Homestead, seized timber; called for instructions? Old Growth stand of Ponderosa and Sugar Pine; FC issued.

Ed Rowland: Joshua Tree Monument (Winter 1947: McC & Roger Clemens: hiked Long Canyon to Dillon, CA; we were not lost), Weaverville CA (The Gables, & Small Tracts (1953) mining claim occupancy relief prior to Church-Johnson Mining Claim Occupancy Act of 1962 (30 USC 701)

Gwynne Sharrer (Three Rivers-Mineral King, CA, timber trepass on lands adjoining Sequoia National Park; Ponderosa, sugar Pine and Doug fir. Township with 45? sections, brass cap survey; high elevation, surrounding peaks at 12,400+. 1940s chevy sedan, war surplus from Japanese Internment camp at Manzanar CA. Later found giant sequoias in area.

Jim Keogh; Land examiner and forester. Jim and McC did the first Bureau area wide land classification in the winter of 1948 in Antelope Valley, Lancaster, CA. That summer we worked together as the first CA field foresters under the materials act of 1947. We cruised and marked timber for sale in northern CA in Tehama and Shasta Counties. Jim became famous for the "Keogh Corner".

BLM Memories
by James L. Hogan

(Typed by BLM. Refer to Remember 50 Years with the BLM at close of this letter.)

Well, what do you know - we made it! The 50th anniversary of the BLM. And how many times in the early days did we threaten to give the whole mess back to the Indians.

Just to break the ice there are a few of us left who had been working with the problems for some years. My time started October 5, 1935. Memories can't always be trusted - that we all know. But let's do the best we can on this one. We won't be around the next 50 y'know.

Anyway, here goes.

Taylor Grazing Act 1934 became law. Reasons that sparked the law: 1) range was becoming crowded; 2) common use was not working; and 3) cattle and sheep wars of the Delta and country below (south) of the Grand Canyon South Rim.

The law should have read - The Taylor-McCarran Act. I doubt that the law ever would have been accomplished without the power of Pat McCarran, senator from Nevada. Then we had Key Pittman. Both were orators. Both were fighters. Both were thoughtful and brainy men. Both were senators from Nevada. We in Nevada were fortunate to have them.

So we started with the Taylor Grazing Act then the Division of Grazing then the Grazing Service then the Bureau of Land Management then ?

The Taylor Grazing Act in simple language called for this: "Bring order out of chaos and bring the range to its highest use." Two things, very important. "Bring order out of chaos" -- this was quite successful by organizing the Grazing Boards. Government employees of the Grazing Service were truly referees (nothing else). No district grazier would buck the Board. The stockmen knew the range. They knew the range use. They knew the family range use. From their findings rights of use were determined. Some families had been on some of the range for three generations. So early determinations were made with the Rainbow Sheets. In a nutshell, they worked as follows: from 1929 to 1934 What do you demand? (Number of cattle?) What is your proof of demand? (Use history.) Where did you range? And other things built in such as state water rights, free use for family beef needs, dry dairy cattle, etc. Drift was also considered.

Of course, as time went on many things changed. 1) Grazing Boards became Advisory Boards without authority, 2) the rancher was no longer the Captain of the ship. He was told what he must do.

1) The five year S & M plans were introduced.
2) The Deming 2 phase? I still have a pair of boots with a notch in the toe.

3) Flood control?
4) Water spreaders?

I could go on and on but this could turn into war stories. Soooooo ..... just for a break - who does remember those early men from the Grazing Service. Pioneers - leaders like Hunt, Fails, Baxter, Tom Miller, Hall, Snyder, Rohwer, Agee Hill, Magleby, Rowland, Greenslet, Carron, Bill White, Russ Penney, Leavitt and so many more. Most are gone. A few remain.

We seem to have a batch of suggestions to pick from for war stories or just plain thoughts. I will sort of pick and choose on this. So here goes -
(Editor's note: Please refer to enclosure of letter Remember 50 Years with the BLM.)

1. Organizations

A. Regional Offices always seemed to be a kick in the head. This is the way I remember them: Chicago under Fails; Sacramento under Hunt; San Francisco under Greenslet then Denver.

B. I don't remember any.
C. The title was graziers.
D. There were five.
E. These should never have been organized in the first place.

2. McCarran Holiday was six weeks no pay. Yes, I remember. The top three government employees who shot off their mouths and told Senator McCarran that they were running the outfit sure found out their mistake.

3. Moss Hearings - your guess.

4. Grazing administration

(1) Range Adjudication: We always came up with agreement all around. Sure it was work and study, but we were talking to our peers and reasonable men.

A. Not clear.
B. A bit tricky at times, but we worked it out.
C. Commensurate property, not difficult.
D. Both had their good points and need for the point in time.
E. In my opinion it was never done as it should have been.

(2) Range Surveys and Condition and Trend.

A. Not practical in my opinion.
B. Questionable.

C. Deming - great on paper.

D. Rest rotation: great for areas with moisture, not great on desert range. Anything below 16' rainfall on desert range - use it or lose it.

E. Sure. Personnel serviced them themselves. Mulligan stew was the main dish. Potatoes, onions, carrots and some beef. Dutch oven stuff. Not bad. Biscuits in the D.O. lid.

B. Section 15 Taylor Grazing (1) lease adjudication and ADM worked very well in the Las Vegas District 5.

5. S&M and RI Programs

A. OK but short usable life 3 to 5 years.

B. Contour furrowing - no good.

C. Crested wheat seeding, 4 to 9 inches moisure (no good); sketchy 9 to 16 inches; fair 16 to 20 inches and always good above 20 inches.

D. ?

E. Should never have been done.

F. Some good, some bad.

G. Very good.

6. Halogeton control - worthless.

7. Wildlife.

A. ?

B. Some good, some bad. Bobcats soon learned where they were and enjoyed dinners.

C - H?

I. I was sure the black flies would eat me up on the early counts.

8. Lands and Realty - certainly a lot of crooked men had found their way into this program. It should be separated and become a separate agency.

9. Fire Control Program - Early fire organization
War stories here --

A - E?

F. Found all of them excellent and the Mexican Nationals were also great. No problems.

10. Minerals Program

A. Should have been left with Bureau of Mines.

B - E?

11. Forestry Program

A. Never heard the term used. However, are we talking about the fire caused by belt friction on machinery and the (30 mile I think) runaway fire?

B. ?

C. Not to my knowledge. However too many of them were overloaded by their supervisors.

12. Recreation Program

A - B?

C. There are many.

13 - 15. No comments.

BLM Evolving with the Law

Sure as time went on we had something to do with all of these. Interesting and rewarding many were before our time.

REMEMBER 50 YEARS WITH THE BLM

Our objective in celebrating BLM's 50th anniversary is to provide an enjoyable opportunity for those who have served the BLM to reminisce about their careers, their work experiences and their fondest memories. We encourage each of you to provide this information to us in writing in order that we might prepare a booklet of these historic experiences.

The most important part of the documentation of BLM's history may be the humorous and personal incidents that occurred. The what we did, where we were at when! What was it like? Share the humorous incidents? Were there little games played on one another? Were there certain "characters" who provided great enjoyment to our careers whenever we met? An example is Rex Morgan and the published Morganism. Cadastral survey and range survey crews have many excellent stories. We would appreciate some color from the past. Give us a little spice on this 50th anniversary!

Here are some suggestions:

1. Organizations
   - A. Regional Offices
   - B. Area Offices (Portland, Area 3, etc.)
   - C. State Offices (State Supervisor and State Director -- who was the first State Director?) (When was the Nevada State Office created?)
   - D. District Offices (What were the District Offices in Nevada on July 16, 1946?)
   - E. Resource Areas (Where was the first decentralized Area Headquarters?)

2. The McCarran Holiday (Does history recycle? Are present day budget and downsizing familiar tunes?)

3. The Moss hearings

4. Grazing administration
   - A. Section 3 Taylor Grazing Act
     - (1) Range Adjudication
       - A. Near, nearer, nearest
       - B. Base Property Qualifications (land and water)
       - C. Commenserate Property
       - D. Community Allotments vs. Individual Allotments
       - E. Allotment fencing
     - (2) Range Surveys and Condition and Trend
       - A. Methodology (Dykersterhiuf)
       - B. Parker 3 Step
       - C. Deming 2 Phase
       - D. Gus Hormay Rest Rotation
       - E. Were Range Survey field camps set up in the field? How were they serviced? Was fresh meat a delicacy?
   - B. Section 15 Taylor Grazing Act
     - (1) Lease Adjuducation and Administration

5. Soil and Moisture and Range Improvement Programs
   - A. Detention and retention dams
   - B. Contour furrowing
   - C. Crested wheatgrass seedings
   - D. Pinon-Juniper chaining (Ely Chain)
   - E. Sagebrush spraying
   - F. Allotment fencing
   - G. Spring and water development

6. Halogeton Control Program

7. Wildlife Program
   - A. Wildlife inventory
   - B. Guzzler development
   - C. Waterfowl pothole and reservoir fencing
   - D. Antelope kid tagging
   - E. Wildlife captures and transplants
   - F. Streambank rehabilitation projects
   - G. Fisheries surveys
   - H. Threatened and endangered species
   - I. Species reestablishment (bighorn sheep)

8. Lands and Realty Program
   - A. Public sales - Isolated parcels
   - B. Recreation and Public Purposes Act sales and leases and compliance checks
   - C. Small Tract Act sales and leases
   - D. Desert Land entries
   - E. Homestead entries
   - F. Stockraising Homestead Act entries
   - G. Public Land Act Sales (1964 Act)
   - H. Private exchanges
   - I. Rights-of-Way

9. Fire Control Program - Early fire organization
   - A. Details to other States to fight fire
   - B. "Drunk tank" firefighters
   - C. The first use of aerial tankers
   - D. Fire camps and logistics
   - E. How were the fire division, sector and crew bosses designated?
   - F. Early use of Indian fire crews

10. Minerals Program
    - A. Mineral patent processing
    - B. P.L. 167 field examination and publications for surface management by BLM of mining claim surface
    - C. Material Sales

D. Oil and Gas Leasing
   (1) The lottery!
   (2) When did BLM take an active role in management of oil and gas drilling? Why?
E. Geothermal steam leasing

11. Forestry Program
   A. Who remembers the October 12 (Columbus Day) forest blowdown in Oregon? Were you detailed to Oregon to assist?
   B. Was there competition and discrimination between O&C and Public Land foresters?
   C. Were Nevada foresters ever considered "stump farmers"?

12. Recreation Program
   A. Management of the Red Rock area
   B. Construction of recreation campgrounds and sites
   C. Archaeology and palentology significant finds

13. Wild Horse and Burro Program
   A. What actions were taken after the 1959 Act?
   B. How were the early herds identified as either trespass animals or wild horses?
   C. When was the first gathering of wild horses for adoption to the public implemented?
   D. When were the Palomino Valley corrals established?
   E. When was the first aerial roundup?

14. Planning and Environmental Protection
   A. The progression of Land Use Planning from the Classification and Multiple Use Act to the Federal Land Policy Management Act
   B. Organization and management of the environmental processes from enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act to today
   C. Major Environmental Impact Statement projects
      (1) MX Missile
      (2) Valmy power plant
      (3) Alaska natural gas transportation system

15. Wilderness
   A. Inventory
   B. Public meetings

16. Cadastral Survey
   A. Historical methodology to the present technology
   B. Bogus surveys

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BLM: Evolving With the Law

To stimulate your reminiscence to share experiences with us, here is a list of legislative acts that have most significantly guided BLM's pre- and post- organizational programs and work. These are not all inclusive and if you wish to comment on action or work under other legislative acts or direction, please feel free to do so.

1. Land Ordinance of 1785 establishes system survey (cadastral surveys)
2. Establishment of the General Land Office (1812)
3. Homestead Act (1862)
4. General Mining Law (1872)
5. Desert Land Act (1877)
6. Stock-Raising Homestead Act (1916)
7. Taylor Grazing Act - Grazing Service established (1934)
8. Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (1937)
9. Small Tract Act (1938)
10. Bureau of Land Management established (1946)
11. Recreation and Public Purposes Act (1954)
12. Multiple Surface Use Act (1955)
13. Wild Horse Protection Act (1959)
14. Mining Claim Occupancy Act (1962)
15. Classification & Multiple Use Act (1964)
16. Public Land Sale (1964)
17. Public Land Law Review Commission (1964)
18. National Environmental Policy Act (1970)
19. Geothermal Steam Act (1970)
20. Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (1971)
21. Federal Land Management and Policy Act (1976)

Acts that were unique to Nevada that you may wish to include are:

Sutro Tunnel (1866)
Pittman Act (1919)
State Exchange Act (1926)
Eldorado Act (1958)
Fort Mohave (1960)
Land transfer to City of Henderson (1963)
Mesquite Land Sale Act (1988)
Santini Burton Act (1980)
Nevada-Florida Land Exchange Act (Aerojet) (1988)
National Forest Enhancement Act (Interchange) (1988)

Early land use planning and resource inventory acts and projects that launched the careers of many BLM employees were the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Basin Public Land Classification Project (1940s).

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE `50s - A TOAST
by A. John Hillsamer

Here's to the men who work in town
Here's to their ladies fair
Pretty people with derrieres round
From cowpunching office chairs

Here's to another less fortunate duck
His butt's beaten flat in a pick-up truck
There are few ladies fair to grace his work
He's a back country brush jumping belittled jerk

The country he works in I'll tell you now
Offers little that's female - ok, sure there's the cow
And there are Jane rabbits, ewe sheep, sage hens and such
Gender `mongst critters doesn't matter that much

Dear God you've forsaken this rock pile of Thine
You've left it to him and these pinon pine
There are sage brush and juniper, there's HOT and DRY
There are altitude, aloneness and alkali

Who's this lad so sad with his lot?
If the truth be known he likes what he's got
He's part engineer - that's the part they won't claim
Tho what have they done to so hallow their name?
When first you see him you'd call him a hick
That's no hoe in his hand - it's a Biltmore stick
His wife calls him darlin' - The boss dubs him dastard
Misbegotten, misdirected, miscreant bastard
He's a misplaced son of slide rule and sod
HE'S A FORESTER IN NEVADA - SO HELP HIM, GOD.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Nevada State Directors, Associate State Directors and District Managers

State Directors	Dates of Tenure
Edmund R. Greenslet	1954-1958
Ernest J. Palmer	1958-1961
J. Russell Penny	1961-1965
Nolan F. Keil	1966-1972
Edgar I. Rowland	1972-1979
Edward F. Spang	1979-1990
Billy R. Templeton	1990-1994
Ann J. Morgan	1994 to present
Associate State Directors	
Roger J. McCormack	1971-1985
Lynn Engdahl	1985-1986
Fred Wolf	1986-1991
K Lynn Bennett	1991-1993
Jean Rivers-Council	1994 to present
Elko District Managers	
Lee Perry	1938-1943
Virgil Starr	1944-1946
Boyd S. Hammond	1946-1949
Delbert Fallon	1950-1957
Gerald F. Trescartes	1958-1959
Lowell Udy	1960-1961
Clair M. Whitlock	1961-1966
J. Kent Giles	1966-1972
Eugene A. Moore	1972-1978
Rodney Harris	1979-1995
Helen Hankins	1995 to present
Winnemucca District Managers	
Lee Hylton	1938-1940
Ira Fyock	1940
Huling Ussery	1940-1941
Derrel S. Fulwider	1942-1954
Dale Naylor	1955
John Russiff	1956-1964
Eugene A. Moore	1964-1972
Chester Conard	1972-1979
Frank Shields	1980-1988
Ron Wenker	1988 to present

Carson City District Managers

August (Monte) Rowher	1946-1951
Dante Solari	1951-1963
Val B. Richman	1963-1968
Horace E. (Mike) Jones	1968-1972
L. Paul Applegate	1972-1977
Thomas J. Owen	1978-1986
James W. Elliott	1986-1994
John O. Singlaub	1995 to present

Ely District Managers

Don Dimock	1938-1941
August (Monte) Rowher	1941-1943
Lee Perry	1943
Bill McGill	1944
Delbert Fallon	1944-1950
Jesse Kirk	1950-1961
Curt McVee	1961-1963
Roy W. Bean	1963-1969
Richard LeDosquet	1969-1972
Robert L. Schultz	1972-1976
Neil McCleery	1977-1982
Merrill DeSpain	1982-1985
Ken Walker	1985-1995
Gene Kolkman	1995 to present

Las Vegas District Managers

August (Monte) Rowher	1938-1941
A. W. Magleby	1948-1960
Euel Davis	1960-1964
Dennis Hess	1964-1972
John Boyles	1972-1980
Kemp Conn	1980-1985
Ben Collins	1986-1993
Mike Dwyer	1994 to present

Battle Mountain District Managers

August (Monte) Rowher	1951-1961
Walt Leberski	1961
Jesse Lowe	1961-1966
Harry Finlayson	1967-1972
Gene Nodine	1972-1981
James H. Fox	1981-1985
Terry Plummer	1985-1989
James Currivan	1989-1995
Gerald Smith	1996 to present

NEVADA STATE DIRECTORS

Edmund R. Greenslet
1954-1958

J. Russell Penny
1961-1965

Nolan F. Keil
1966-1972

Edgar I. Rowland
1972-1979

NEVADA STATE DIRECTORS

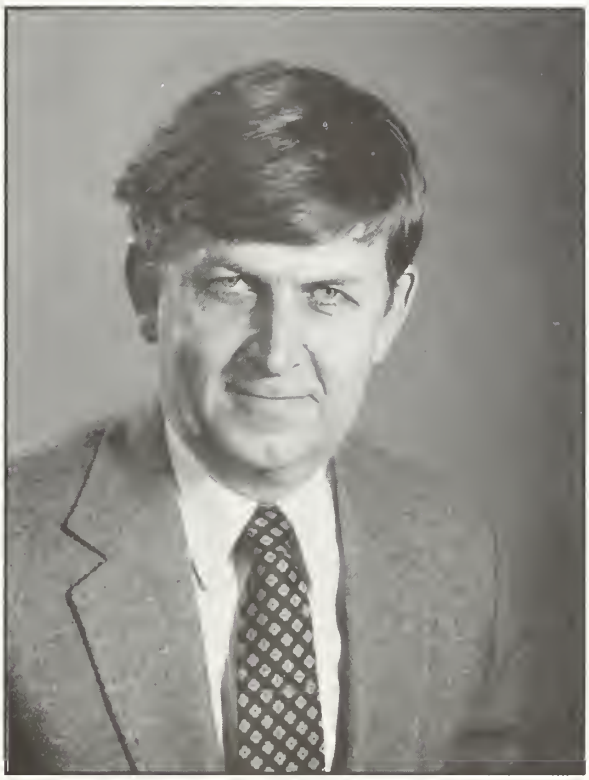
Edward F. Spang
1979-1990

Billy R. Templeton
1990-1994

Ann J. Morgan
1994 to present

ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTORS

Roger J. McCormack
1971-1985



Lynn Engdahl
1985-1986

Fred Wolf
1986-1991

K Lynn Bennett
1991-1993

Jean Rivers-Council
1994 to present

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE PERSONNEL
APRIL 30, 1962 - RENO, NEVADA

ROW 1: Dwight (Red) Patton, Max Bridge, Dan Baker, Curt Hammit, Russ Penny, O'Dell Child, Jim Young, Lloyd Toland Jim Saladin, Ralph Dunn, Jim Yoakum, Bill Malencik, Jack Griswold and John Birch.

ROW 2: S. Kirtpatrick, Dwan Berreman, Betty Preston, Margo Kelley, Vivian Lindbloom, Ruby Phillips. Hazel Jones, Mary Clark, Barbara Flint, Anita Harrington, Edith Baker, Dorothy Seney, Leona Belknap, Fern Trimbell & Betty Nelson

ROW 3: Francis Kimrey, Virginia McCold, Maevis Holland, Blanche Trounday, Charles Hancock, Allen Wood, Elsie Davis, Viola Miller, Sara Maccagnano, Ann Cornelius, Margaret Olsen, Carol Hadley, Gary George, Jim Brunner & Carolyn Kurth

ROW 4: LeGrand Bennion, O. B. Howell, Lewis Chichester, Sherman Pearl, Gerry DeRegis, Bob Deadmond, Harry Schubert, Charles Watson, Ed Bangs, Dick Wiltsie, John Hillsamer & Jay Hardison.

ROW 5: Jim DeRop, John Green, Jerry Ostrom, Jim Croft, Donnell Richards, Nolan Roberts, Kathleen Eyraud, Joan Brunson, Bob Beal, John Gravlin and John Weber.

ROW 6: Dorothy Gibbens, Wilma Davis, Sharon Mead, Patsy McDuffie, Marge MacArthur, Jo Rasmussen, Sadie McKeen & Cy Poland.

RENO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
NEVADA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM
JUSTICE COURT 2nd FLOOR

NEVADA STATE OFFICE (January 26, 1972)

FRONT ROW (Left to Right): Wilma Davis, Dorothy Gibbens, Ann Cornelius, Evelyn Miller, Laurel Parker, Teena Gase, Virginia McCold, Lydia Crouse, Georgia Higgins, Sue Christopherson, Sara Maccagnano, Jane Clawson, Carolyn Kurth, and Opal Berlin.
SECOND ROW: Gary Jacobs, Melvin Bunch, Bill Malencik, Ernest Grover, Jim Saladin, Lacel Bland, Steve Rasmussen, Emagene DeWitt, Anne Dougherty, Margo Kelley, Patsy McDuffie, Dick LeDosquet, and LeGrand Bennion.
THIRD ROW: Dave Carty, Euguen Moore, John Hillsamer, Ken Reinert, Dennis Brundage, Harry Finlayson, Mary Lee Harris, Ruby Phillips, Florence (Jo) Nishioka, Bernita Dawson, Maevis Holland, Fern Trimbell, Alice Williams, Kerry Cartier, and Horace Jones.
FOURTH ROW: Jerry Ostrom, John Trimmer, Rolla Chandler, Duane Garoutte, Jay Hardison, Charles Hancock, George Simecek Elizabeth Sutton, Mary Clark, Anita Harrington, Dwan Berreman, Ed Spang, and Gerry Brown.
FIFTH ROW: Roger McCormack, Dick Barbar, Neil Saunders, Eldon Sibley, Robert Pratt, Don Beck, Julian Anderson.
SIXTH ROW: Pepper Schultz, Calvin Robinson, Dick Munson, Neil Forsyth, Cy Poland, Kent Giles, Carol Hadley, Nolan Keil, Gary Speight, Jim Yoakum, and Dennis Hess.

B. L. M. 1972
NEVADA STATE OFFICE

NEVADA STATE OFFICE BLM EMPLOYEE PICTURE - - JUNE 6, 1980

First Row: (left to right)
Paula Reynolds, Debbie Carey, Lois Miller, Stuart Gearhart, Joanne Woodruff, Phyllis Clinger, Gloria Ayres, Marta Adams, Peggy Riek, Dwan Berreman, Kathy Replogle, Sara Ramsey, Annette O'Dell

Second Row:
Jo Quade, Merle Hall, Karen Kennedy, Pam Ouellette, Patsy McDuffie, Michelle Drew, Bonnie Johnson, Elaine Hoyle, Mary Griffin, Emagene DeWitt, Sally Morrin, Ardyce Pearson, Steve Smith, Fred Petersen, Teri Deakins

Third Row:
Ann Collier, Atanda Clinger, Marie Bresch, Maxine Gullickson, Carol Thompson, Vivian Reid, Bill Reid, Chris Cooley, Donna Grill, Lou Guiuan, Virginia McCold, Mary Lou Fitch, Betty (B.J.) Andrade, Don Jarvis, Ed Spang

Fourth Row:
Ken Stowers, Cas Martinez, Lacel Bland, Neil Forsyth, Kathy Dahl, Laura Le Jeune, Teri DeLeeuw, Rick Dunn, Sandy Lamoreux, Nolan Roberts, Ed Evatz, Mike Phillips, Bob Stager

Fifth Row:
Roger McCormack, Fred Weech, Jack Sorensen, Gary Jacobs, Dick Munson, Carol Hadley, Rosie Rodriguez, Jan Bedrosian, Jack Seley, Mary Clark, Bernita Dawson, Jody Woodin, Chuck Saulisberry, Don Spalinger, Maxine Shane, George High

Sixth Row:
Bill Calkins, Stuart Cox, Fred Ramstad, Calvin Robinson, Edd Jackson, Dave Harmon, Shaaron Holderness, Dick Morrison, Geren Long, Osborne Casey, John Chappell, Len Sims

Seventh Row:
Dennis Anderson, John Trimmer, Mike Neese, Marciano Briones, Bruce Sheldon, Charles Olson, Norman Melvin, John Gregg, Dick Jewell, Les Sweeney, Loren Brazell, Phillip Range, Rich Nase

Eighth Row:
Paul Myers, Richard Hanes, Dennis Watchman, John Wilhelm, Bob Goodman, Warren Shaw, Rich Hagan, Melvin Bunch, Jerry Harman, Frank Maxwell, Charles Hancock, Jeff Holstein

(Left to right) Seated first row: Jody Woodin, Mary Murphy, Patsy McDuffie, Joanne Woodruff, Theresa Joslin, Lillian Hansen, Wilma Gibbons, Betty Green, Jaye Conger, Elaine Lewis, Virginia McClure, Linda Emmons, Debbie Spitale, Kahlene Whitaker, Eunice Lane, Marion Gatewood, Sheila Jones, Gail Craig

Seated second row: Cas Martinez, Al Dunton, Dick Munson, John Snow, Len Sims, Hugh Carson, Ron Tauchen, Gary Jacobs, Allen Koehler, Jack Seley, David Taylor, Cecil Moore

Third row: Jim Elliott, Ron Wenker, Otis Weimer, Gaio Silva, Ken Thompson, Ken Stowers, Claudia Clegg, Marge Mascher, Maxine Shane, Maxine McClain, Natalie Okimura, Vienna Wolder, Diane Colcord, Donna Grill, Bonnie Johnson, Jack Lewis, Chuck Valentine, Cheryl Jacobs, Mike Neese, Mary Jane Doolittle, Rhonda Anderson, Ray Young, Tommy Hubert, Judy Moffitt, David Clark, Curtis Warrick, Mr. Spang, Fred Wolf

Fourth row: Jerry Smith, Dan Rathbun, Neil Talbot, Ron Williams, Joyce Beck, George Clarke, Roger Haskins, Aranda Clinger, Bob Wilson, Mary Clark, Edna Scott, Dianne Jensen, Pam Draper, Mark Andersen, Bill Moon, Betty Jones, Lonne Hollinger, Carol Hadley, Andrew Gonzales, Nina Koehler, Steve Rasmussen, Dave Wolf, Curtis Tucker, Sandy Gregory, Maureen Koski, Ivy Gentoilzo, Wayne Lowman, Dave Davis, Runore Wycoff, Steve Lambert, Tom O'Toole, Jim McLaughlin, Tom Leshendok

Fifth row: Bob Neary, Wayne King, Bob Stewart, Jess Digman, Steve Benson, Ken Walker, Ben Collins, Steve Smith, Scott Billing, Jim Johnson, Rod Harris, Bob Steele, John Phillips, Pam Reynolds, Barbara La Dage, Mel Bunch, Kathy Dean, Rich Hoops, Osborne Casey, Barron Lauderbaugh, Jack Crowley, Kathy Wiegard, Ben Coburn, Curtis Kinerson, Paul Myers, Brad Hines, Milt Frel

NEWS ARTICLES

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BLM celebrates 50 years of overseeing public resources

BY PRILL MECHAM
For the Appeal

July 16 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency responsible for the administration and caretaking of 68 percent of the land in the state of Nevada.

The birth of the BLM was in large part the result of efforts by the U.S. senator from Nevada, Pat McCarran. The House of Representatives in 1946 strongly favored increasing grazing fees in order to allow the Taylor Grazing Service to cover its own expenses.

The Taylor Grazing Service was the federal agency which dealt with grazing policy on public lands in the western states at that time. Sen. McCarran and other western senators opposed this idea which resulted in the House Appropriations Committee cutting the Grazing Service's budget 88 percent. Sen. McCarran and others protested this reduction which basically dismembered the Grazing Service.

Looking for ways to preserve the functions of the Grazing Service, Department of Interior officials investigated the possibility of merging the Grazing Service with the General Land Office. The GLO also administered grazing lands, but its responsibility was to handle settlement, land sale, land exchange, and mineral entries in the grazing districts. A merger of the two agencies was recommended by then Secretary of State Harold Ickes.

In May of 1946, President Harry S. Truman forwarded the proposal to Congress, and on July 16, the BLM was born.

BLM was initially organized into seven regions. Region 2 encompassed Nevada and California and had its regional headquarters in San Francisco. For the first two years of its existence, BLM struggled to form its identity.

In 1948, a Nevadan with ambitious goals and vision for the BLM became its director. Marion Clawson, a graduate of the University of Nevada, took over at the helm and began to form the new agency in a manner that would be responsive to the local users. He decentralized the agency, giving authority to make decisions to the regional administrators.

Under the regional offices, four types of field offices operated: district land offices, public survey offices, district grazing offices and district forestry offices. District offices for western Nevada were located in Reno.

In 1954, the BLM was further decentralized with the creation of state offices and the readjustment of the regional boundaries. Region 2 was reconfigured to include Nevada, Utah, Arizona and Idaho, with the Region 2 headquarters located in Salt Lake City.

At the same time state offices were formed, district offices were moved to or formed in the communities closest to where the work was being done on the ground. Nevada's district grazing offices were located in Carson City, Las Vegas, Elko, Winnemucca and Ely. The district land office remained in Reno.

Carson City resident Fern Hilligus came to the Carson City District Grazing Office in August 1955. The office was located in the old Federal Building on the corner of Carson and Telegraph streets.

She recalls that when she began there as the district clerk, which was only a year after the office was formed, there was a district grazier as the chief administrator, a range manager, a range conservationist, a person in charge of forestry and fire, a warehouseman and a well driller, who was located in Fallon.

The BLM office in Carson City was concerned solely with grazing issues during the early years of its formation. Range improvement activities, such as well drilling and fence building, were the responsibility of the District Grazing Office as well as the adjudication of grazing privileges.

George Norcutt, the well driller stationed in Fal-

Guest Opinion

lon, had a full-time job drilling water wells to serve the livestock industry. The attitude in the office was one of cooperation and sharing.

Hilligus recalls when she first started as clerk in the office, she knew nothing about filing and barely knew how to type. The first question that she was asked when she began her new job was, "Do you know how to make coffee?" She says that Dante Solari, the district grazier, got right into the filing problem with her and helped her organize a system for the district grazing files.

No one felt that they were too specialized to do any job. Fern handled all clerical duties in the office until 1958 when Cora Cowan joined her as a clerk/typist. Cora was the first black woman ever to be hired by the BLM in Nevada. She and her husband were one of four black families living in Carson City.

The decentralization concept in BLM gained popularity, and in 1962 the District Land Office was moved to Carson City and merged with the District Grazing Office to become the newly formed District Office. Joining the grazing staff were two geologists, two lands adjudicators and a lands and minerals clerk.

Nolan Roberts, a land adjudicator, came to the Carson City District from the Reno office in 1962. He recalls that much of their work was with patenting homesteads, small tracts and Desert Land Entries in such areas as between Fairview Drive and the Stewart Indian Colony in Carson City, Johnson Lane south of Carson City and north of Sun Valley near Reno.

The Carson City District was further subdivided into Resource Areas in 1966 following a reorganizational study. The study found that in order to provide better service to public land users, the districts should be further subdivided into smaller geographical units which would be responsible for the day-to-day administration of activities taking place on public lands. During the early years of the resource area structure, four resource areas were established: Reno, Fallon, Yerington and Hawthorne.

Yerington and Hawthorne resource areas were combined in 1968 and managed by one area manager. In 1971, the Reno Resource Area was split between the Fallon Resource Area and the Yerington/Hawthorne Resource Area and two new resource areas were formed: the Walker and the Lahontan. In 1996, the resource areas will be abolished in favor of divisions of renewable and non-renewable resources.

As the organizational structure of BLM diversified, so did the job titles. In the early 1960s, the BLM in Carson City was comprised of range conservationists, geologists, lands adjudicators, a forester and several clerks. Following the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), BLM became a truly multiple use and multiple resource focused agency.

Wildlife biologists, recreation planners, soil scientists, hydrologists, and archaeologists were added to the staffs. Admittedly, regulation and administration became more complex, but along with that came a deeper sensitivity to the valuable natural resources that comprise the wealth of the public lands in the Carson City District.

Today's BLM employee still has that same spirit of cooperation and "can do" attitude that Fern Hilligus remembers was the distinguishing characteristic of BLMers 40 years ago.

Prill Mecham is district archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office.

Carson City District Office kicks off golden anniversary

NEVADA APPEAL MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1996

BY SHARON CARTER
Appeal Staff Writer

The 50th anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management is coming July 16, but the Carson City District Office plans to kick off the celebration Thursday with an open house, awards ceremony and round table discussion.

Over the years, the Carson City District Office has seen many people come and go. But three people still remember the early days of the BLM in Carson City.

Fern Hillygus, 81, lives in Dayton in an assisted-living facility. Cora Cowan, 58, is retired and lives in Carson City with her husband of more than 40 years. And Rudy Reimold, 62, a former Carson District manager of 15 years, still works for the BLM.

They worked in the small BLM office in the late 1950s.

"It was downtown in the federal building (the old post office south of the Carson Nugget)," Rudy Reimold said. "Over the years it moved around town. That hasn't changed, this October we're scheduled to move from the Hot Springs Road office to we're not sure where."

Reimold, has a gray beard now and moves a little slower than he used to, especially in cold weather, but his eyes still light up when he talks about his job and they way it was.

"We did things then and got them done on a shoestring," he said. "When I hired on just out of college in the late '50s, we had a total staff of about a dozen. We spent 90 percent of our time in the field and 10 percent in the office. Now, with 64 or 65 people on the staff, we spend 10 percent of our time in the field and 90 percent in the office."

The three remember their office as a place where the people helped each other and, as a group, had parties in the equipment yard.

"We did whatever had to be done," Fern Hillygus said. "Titles came later. There were eight people in the office when I started. We were up to 10 when Cora came."

If you go
What: Bureau of Land Management Open House
Where: BLM Carson City District Office, 1535 Hot Springs Road
When: Open house from 4-7 p.m. Thursday

Hillygus, still a tall slender woman, is blind in one eye and must use a cane when she walks. Remembering and talking about the old days in the Carson Office agrees with her.

"There were no turfs to guard," Cora Cowan said. "That's the nice thing about a small district. Fern was the second clerk to work there and she came about a year after the office opened. Then they hired me to help her. We were office support for the people in the field and we handled the office. Fern taught me and helped me, and then we helped each other."

Cowan remembers her years with the agency as a time of challenge and fun. "There was no time to be bored," she said.

Hillygus handled the accounting, purchasing and grazing permits for the small office. Cowan worked in personnel and payroll, did most of the filing and typing, and helped the people in the field with their mileage. Both women worked in mapping, hand-coloring in land that went from public to private ownership.

"Our records were public, open for anyone who came in, and they had to be current," Reimold said. "When the land in south Carson (City) sold off in 2 1/2 acre parcels for $2,500 each, when the Johnson Lane land was sold, there was plenty of work to do."

In the early years after it was formed in 1946, the BLM was seen as the government's land rental and sales agency. The Carson City office, which opened in 1954, was charged with the care of the 5-million-acre district that ranged from Mono Lake to Montgomery Pass to just south of Honey Lake, and Beckworth Lake to Topaz Lake, Fernley to Pyramid Lake.

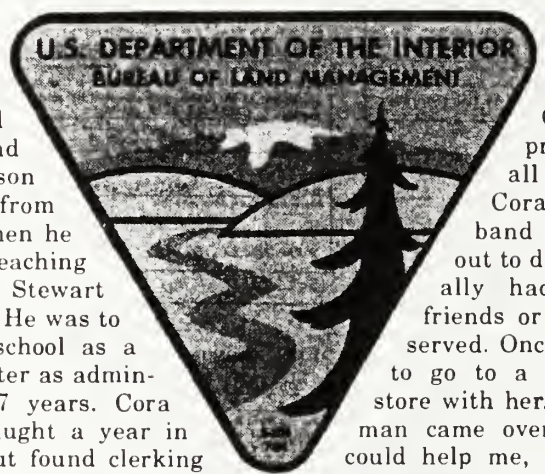
In 1986, the Carson District border changed to follow Highway 395.

BLM office worker faced discrimination

BY SHARON CARTER
Appeal Staff Writer

A quietly elegant woman, Cora Cowan was probably the first Negro woman to work for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada.

Now a retired English teacher, she said the term "African-American" applies to her ancestors who were first brought over from Africa and to recent immigrants, not to people born in this country. And the modern use of the word "Black," she said, draws too much attention to color and the racial issues.



Cowan and her husband came to Carson City from Mississippi when he was offered a teaching position at the Stewart Indian School. He was to work at the school as a teacher and later as administrator for 27 years. Cora Cowan had taught a year in Mississippi, but found clerking jobs when they moved to Nevada.

She worked for the BLM from 1958 until the fall of 1969. In 1975, she began teaching full-time at Carson High School. She later moved to Eagle Valley Middle School.

"We lived on campus at Stewart," Cowan said. "It was a wonderful multi-cultural community. The Bureau of Indian Affairs employed several Negro people, and they, too, lived on campus. It was a neat period."

The years that Cora Cowan worked for the BLM, the 1960s, was a period of social change in the nation. And in Carson City as well.

"Cora probably won't say much about discrimination, but it happened here too," said Fern Hillygus, who worked with Cowan at the BLM district office in Carson City. "It probably made us all closer. When Cora and her husband wanted to go out to dinner, they usually had to go with friends or risk not being served. Once she asked me to go to a local furniture store with her. When a salesman came over to ask if he could help me, I told him my friend wanted to buy something. She had been there before and nobody had waited on her. She never made a fuss and she usually got what she wanted if it was important to her."

"It was a lot of territory to cover," Reimold said. "When I hired on there were 13 people in the district."

Hillygus said unlike the government bureaus of today, the people in the early years were "multi-purposed."

"If someone got behind in his or her work, the others would pitch in and help," she said. "If someone went on vacation, others knew how to do the job and the work went on. Of course, we were glad when that person came back because we all carried an extra load while he or she was gone."

The face of the BLM changed in 1976 with the passage of the Organic Act. It directed the BLM to manage and protect public lands for the use of the people rather than just overseeing grazing leases and arranging land sales.

Tourism board OKs $2 million landmark facelift

BY GEOFF DORNAN
Nevada Capitol Bureau Chief

The Nevada Tourism Commission has voted to put $2 million into restoring the 105-year-old former Carson City federal building — a four-story brick landmark complete with clock tower next to the Carson Nugget.

Tourism Director Thomas Tait said Friday the commission vote was unanimous to ask the Nevada Legislature's permission to restore the building as office space.

"This would not be a cosmetic restoration," he said. "It has to be approved by the budget process, but this is something the Commission on Tourism feels very strongly about."

The building was completed in May 1891. The first federal building in Nevada, it housed the Post Office, Land Office, Weather Bureau and the U.S. District Court.

If Gov. Bob Miller's administration and lawmakers approve, $2 million in room-tax revenue would be added to the $700,000 already approved by the 1995 Legislature for the renovation.

"It's room-tax dollars that have been saved judiciously by the commission for the last several years," said Tait. "So it would not be funded by general revenues — it's being paid for by tourists."

He said the tourism agency has already been notified it will have to move sometime in the not-too-distant future because its present office is in the path of the proposed Highway 395 bypass. Tait said it would cost up to $2.9 million to build a new building to house the agency.

"So, I think the stars are pretty much lining up on this. It's good for Carson City, good for tourism," he said, adding that the building would give a showcase home to the commission charged with nurturing Nevada's premier industry.

Mayor Mary Teixeira described the plan as "terrific news for Carson City."

Building

Continued from Page A1

Tait said when completed, the building will house Nevada Magazine, a reception area and gift shop on the first floor. The Tourism Commission offices, an office for the lieutenant governor, who heads the commission, and administrative offices will be on the second floor.

The third floor, he said, will be for offices of the rural grants program, domestic and rural tourism and sales staffs, media affairs and other functions.

While there is a fourth floor, he said it probably won't be public offices because the elevator reaches only the third. But the building also has a full basement for storage. The former courtroom on the second floor will become a meeting room Tait said can be used by other agencies and groups as well as by the tourism commission.

The building originally cost $134,605 to build. For most of its existence, it was referred to as the post office. The District Court moved to Reno in the early 1960s after the Cliff Young federal building on Booth Street was completed, but the Post Office didn't move until 1970.

Then-Senators Howard Cannon and Alan Bible arranged for the state to move in in April 1971 and the building was the home of the Nevada State Library until the new Library and Archives building was completed two years ago.

Since then, federal officials have agreed to finally release the building to Nevada for use by the tourism agency.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which noted that it contains the only clock tower in Carson City, was the first federal building constructed in the state and contained Carson City's first elevator, installed in 1935.

That clock has three faces, each 60 inches in diameter, atop a tower standing 106 feet above Carson Street. The building is brick and stands on the site of what was once Carson City's opera house. Tait said if the project is approved, the work will include removing false, suspended ceilings and other changes that have been made over the years.

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When the Bureau of Land Management was created in 1946, the first headquarters was in the old post office building in Carson City. That location is now an historical monument. Here is the latest on the BLM's former home.

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82 1996

: celebrating
h the Bureau of

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(Continued on reverse)

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Looking back : celebrating
50 years with the Bureau of

Nevada BLM Organization